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water faunas to intermingle to a considerable extent after the time represented approximately by the Topeka limestone, unless by a circuitous route, no one acquainted with the geology of the intervening region would hesitate to state.

It is very difficult to determine what Dr. Girty's conclusion as to the relative age of the Guadalupian, Russian, and Kansan deposits is. It is very evident, however, from the bulk of his reasoning, that he considers both of the former younger than the Kansan deposits. It is also to be remembered that the book was written, and perhaps in type, before the later Kansas studies were published. He was also handicapped by the fact that he was without a personal field knowledge of the Kansas Permian deposits, and for this reason fails fully to appreciate the changed aspect of the fauna, noted by all the paleontologists who have studied the region, from Meek to Prosser.

J. W. BEEDE

A Key for the Determination of Rock-forming Minerals in Thin Sections. BY ALBERT JOHANNSEN, PH.D. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

This work contains about 540 pages of text and tables conveniently arranged for laboratory use. It is much more than a key, for all of the most useful optical methods are described in a concise manner, which will be appreciated by anyone who is engaged in the microscopic study of rock sections. It will be especially helpful to the geologist who uses petrology as an aid to the study of problems of general or economic geology and who finds it necessary to review his optics each year at the beginning of the period of office work.

The arrangement of the tables is original and excellent. The first page of the table for each group is a diagram showing the birefringence, double refraction, and optical character of each numeral of the group. The color plate or table of birefringences in the back of the book is large enough to be useful and not too large to be handled conveniently. There is hardly a diagram or a table which is used by petrographers in everyday practice which is not given in the *Key* and the whole arrangement is designed to gain accuracy and save time.

W. H. E.

Synopsis of Mineral Characters. BY RALPH W. RICHARDS. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

In this useful work of 100 pages the most important minerals are arranged alphabetically and their chief chemical and physical character-